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NSC review

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April 3, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: National Policy on Telecommunications and Automated Information Systems Security (U)

Attached for your review is a final draft NSDD on a National Policy on Telecommunications and Automated Information Systems Security to replace the current PD/NSC-24, Telecommunications Protection Policy, November 16, 1977. (C)

The comments and suggestions of your departments and agencies on the earlier draft are very much appreciated. We have incorporated a number of the suggested changes which I believe improve and strengthen the NSDD. Before forwarding the NSDD to the President for his consideration and approval, I am providing this final draft for any last-minute comments which you may have. (C)

As we have continued to examine the evidence of exploitation of US communications and automated information systems, it has strengthened our view that action must be taken quickly to establish the necessary policy development and implementation structure to meet this serious challenge to US national security. The Secretary of Defense's recent biennial report to the President on the status of communications security in the Federal Government provides a sobering assessment of this challenge. (S)

In this regard, it is important to emphasize that we realize that this NSDD, of and by itself, is not intended to resolve the many critical issues which will be raised as we work to meet these challenges. I believe, however, that the mechanism established by the NSDD provides the framework for dealing with

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these issues and is a necessary first step. I ask for your support in developing this framework in such a way as to protect fully the security of our telecommunications and automated information systems. (C)

I would appreciate your comments no later than April 16, 1984. (U)

J. M. Poindexter
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Attachment
Draft National Security
Decision Directive

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